The King's Academy: Year 9 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Year 9 is an important year for students as they begin to make subject choices that will eventually form their Key Stage 4 Curriculum. By the end of Year 8, students have experienced a broad range of subjects and know their interests, their relative ability in each subject and may have some ideas around future education or career plans. Year 9 presents the opportunity for students to continue studying a core academic curriculum, but begin to introduce new subjects alongside this, or to increase the amount of time spent studying other subjects from Key Stage 3.

The National Curriculum

- English language and English literature [5 periods];
- Mathematics [5 periods];
- Science [5 periods];
- French or German [2 periods];
- Geography [2 periods];
- History [2 periods];
- Religious Education [2 periods];
- Physical Education (additional PE may be studied as an option) [2 periods];
- Careers education is delivered across the curriculum and through pastoral time.
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is integrated within curriculum and pastoral time.

Option Subjects [2 periods per subject]

In addition to the compulsory curriculum above, students will be able to choose **up to four** subjects to study in Year 9. Choosing a double option means that you will study this subject for the whole year, other subjects will be rotated approximately every 6-7 weeks so that students have a broader experience. They will begin to study the foundations of the GCSE or vocational courses, with some courses starting to deliver specification content towards the end of Year 9.

Year 9 Option…	…leading to these courses in Years 10 and 11:
► Art	► GCSE Art & Design *or* GCSE Fine Art (double option)
► Business Studies	► GCSE Business Studies *or* Enterprise & Marketing (Vocational)
► Child Development	► Child Development (Vocational)
► Computer Science	► GCSE Computer Science *or* Information Technology (Vocational)
► Drama	► GCSE Drama (double option)
► Engineering	► GCSE Design Technology *or* Engineering Design (Vocational)
► Hospitality & Catering	► Hospitality & Catering (Vocational)
► Music Performance*	► Music Performance (Vocational- double option)
► Music Technology	► Music Technology (Vocational)
► Physical Education*	► GCSE Physical Education *or* Health & Fitness (Vocational)
► Textiles	► GCSE Textiles (double option)
* *Specific practical entry criteria apply to music performance and physical education.*	

Detailed information on all subjects (and the compulsory curriculum above) can be found on our website. Subject teachers will also inform and advise students.

Key Stage 4 Options

During the summer term, Year 9 students will follow a further options process to determine their final courses for Key Stage 4, typically leading to 9-10 qualifications at the end of Year 11.

How should students choose their options?

When selecting their option subjects, students should consider:

- Which subjects am I interested in?
- Which subjects have I done well in during Years 7 and 8?
- Would I do better in a course that has more coursework than exams?
- Which subjects do I need for my future career plans?

The process for making options choices

Year 8 students will make their options choices during the spring term:

- Students will receive an option form to complete on **Monday 9 March**
- Students and parents should complete this form together by **Friday 20 March**
- All course selections will be reviewed by Heads of Department and the Academy's leadership.
- Once all options choices have been confirmed and the timetable checked to ensure that students' choices can be accommodated, we will confirm each student's options subjects in writing (by the end of the summer term).

Please note that all courses will run subject to demand and the Academy reserves the right to withdraw a course in any year if there is insufficient interest. Equally, some subjects have limited numbers and if over-subscribed, the Academy will use a range of measures to allocate places to students (attendance; responsibility for learning; career aspirations where known; behaviour; etc.)

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